

TROPICAL STORM CASS (20W)

On 26 August, an area of convection developed approximately 160 nm (297 km) to the south of Hong Kong, due east of Hainan Dao, in the South China Sea. Over a 24-hour period, this area became considerably more organized and at 1830Z on the 27th, a Tropical Cyclone Formation Alert (TCFA) was issued. An exposed low-level circulation was evident with convection developing near the center. However, development was inhibited by outflow from Typhoon Amber (18W), which was approximately 600 nm (1100 km) to the east. At 0000Z on the 28th, a warning was issued for Tropical Depression (TD) 20W with an intensity of 30 kt (16 m/sec). The system tracked very slowly towards the east as it continued to intensify, primarily due to a direct interaction with the steering flow from Amber. The cyclone became Tropical Storm

Cass (20W) at 0000Z on 29 August as inhibiting effects from Amber lessened. At this point, Cass turned toward the northeast and increased its forward speed slightly. On 29 August, Cass turned northward, as effects from Amber diminished and the steering flow became south-southwesterly. Outflow from Amber continued to inhibit full development of Cass, which peaked at 45 kt (23 m/sec) on 29 August at 1200Z. Cass maintained this intensity for 12 hours. On 30 August, Cass made landfall near Xinglin, China. The 0600Z synoptic reports from surrounding areas indicated winds of 35 kt (18 m/sec) in the immediate coastal area. At 1200Z the same day, the final tropical cyclone warning was issued by JTWC as the system tracked north-northwestward and dissipated in the mountains of southeastern China.

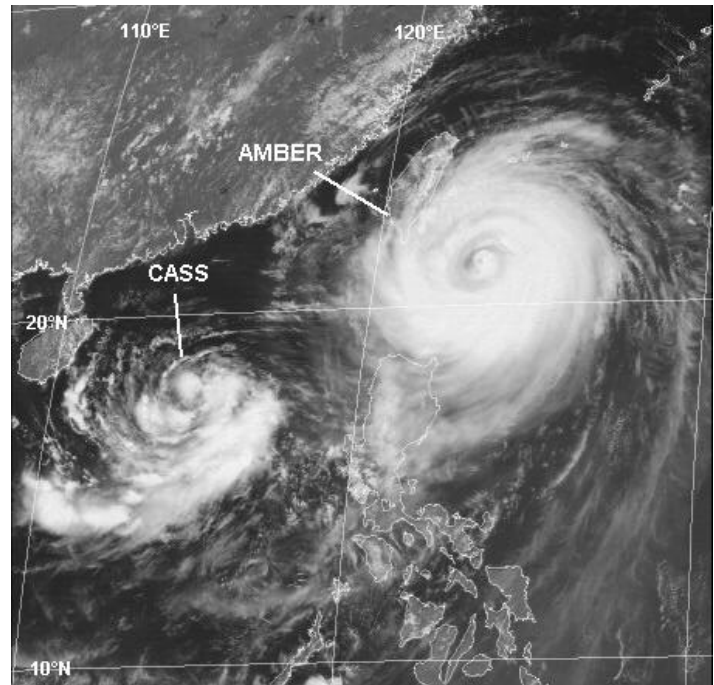


Figure 3-20-1 Tropical Storm Cass (20W) during its TD stage as it interacts with Typhoon Amber (18W) (280333Z August visible GMS imagery).

